

## CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a recombinant RNA-dependent RNA polymerase, comprising transforming a host cell with an expression vector containing both a DNA encoding a soluble polypeptide possessing polymerase activity derived from human hepatitis C virus RNA-dependent RNA polymerase and a DNA encoding a second polypeptide other than said first polypeptide, culturing the transformant obtained, recovering a fusion protein possessing polymerase activity from the medium, and, if desired, separating and recovering a polypeptide possessing polymerase activity from said fusion protein.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the soluble polypeptide possessing polymerase activity derived from human hepatitis C virus RNA-dependent RNA polymerase has either the sequence consisting of amino acid Nos. 1 through 570 of the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 in the sequence listing or an amino acid sequence resulting from the deletion, substitution or addition of 1 or more amino acids in said sequence, and possesses the above-described polymerase activity.

3. The method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the second polypeptide is glutathione S-transferase.

4. A recombinant RNA-dependent RNA polymerase produced by the method according to one of Claims 1 through 3.

5. A recombinant protein possessing human hepatitis C virus RNA-dependent RNA polymerase activity, which is a fusion protein of a polypeptide having either the sequence consisting of amino acid Nos. 1 through 570 of the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 in the sequence listings or an amino acid sequence resulting from the deletion,

6. A DNA encoding the protein according to Claim 5.

**Claim 6.**

8. A transformant resulting from transformation with the expression vector according to Claim 7.